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National Cable Television Association

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March 25, 1993

The Honorable Ervin S. Duggan  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

HAND DELIVERED AT 10:00 A.M.  
MARCH 25, 1993

Dear Irv:

An interesting fact was brought to my attention last night, which I thought I'd share with you.

The Commission's cable pricing data is based on cable retail prices at the end of September, 1992, and it presumably follows that if the Commission chooses to use that data, unadjusted, as the basis of a statistical benchmark scheme, rate increases subsequent to September, 1992 would be discounted.

The cable CPI (compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) was 185.9 in September, 1992, and rose to 194.3 by February 1993, i.e., an increase of 4.5%. It would logically follow from the above, therefore, that any statistical benchmark using the September, 1992 data would be 4.5% lower than current prices, not counting whatever went on in March.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

James P. Mooney

JPM:rrs